

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 10/009,603

Confirmation No.: 4201

Filed: 11 December 2001

For: SUPPORT MATERIALS AND IMAGING METHOD FOR INTRAORAL DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed 6 July 2006 has been received and reviewed. Claims 17, 19, 24, 30, 31, 38, 43, 46, and 47 having been amended, and claims 22 and 28 having been canceled herein without prejudice, the pending claims are claims 17, 19-21, 23-27, and 29-47.

Claims 19, 31, 38, and 46 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 30 and 43 have been amended to correct obvious typographical and/or grammatical errors.

Independent claims 17, 24, and 47 have been amended to incorporate recitations from dependent claims 22 and 28, both now canceled.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for notification to the effect that claims 19, 22, 23, 25, 28-38, and 44-46 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 22 and 28 having been canceled, the objection as applied to claims 22 and 28 has been rendered moot.

Claims 19, 31, 38, and 46 have been rewritten in independent form. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection as applied to claims 19, 31, 38, and 46, along with claims 32-37 which depend therefrom, has been obviated.

Claims 23 and 44-45 depend directly or ultimately from independent claim 17; and claims 25 and 29-30 depend directly or ultimately from independent claim 24. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 17 and 24 (as amended) are in condition for allowance as discussed herein below, and that the objection as applied to claims 23, 25, 29-30, and 44-45 has been obviated.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the claims.

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For: SUPPORT MATERIALS AND IMAGING METHOD FOR INTRAORAL DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

The Examiner rejected claims 17, 24, 26, 39-43, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jeffries et al. (EP 0 304 871). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 17 and 24 having been amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable dependent claims 22 and 28, both now canceled, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection as applied to independent claims 17 and 24, along with dependent claims 26 and 39-43 has been obviated.

Independent claim 47 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable claims 22 and 28, both now canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that Jeffries et al. fail to disclose, among other things, the subject matter recited in claim 47 (as amended). For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 47 (as amended) is not anticipated by Jeffries et al.

The Examiner rejected claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kokal, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 3,959,881). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 47 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable claims 22 and 28, both now canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that Kokal, Jr. fails to disclose, among other things, the subject matter recited in claim 47 (as amended). For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 47 (as amended) is not anticipated by Kokal, Jr.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 20, 21, 27, and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeffries et al. (EP 0 304 871). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Claims 20, 21, and 40-43 depend directly or ultimately from independent claim 17; and claim 27 depends directly or ultimately from independent claim 24. Independent claims 17 and 24 having been amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable dependent claims 22 and 28, both now canceled, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection as applied to claims 20, 21, 27, and 40-43 has been obviated.

The Examiner rejected claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kokal, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 3,959,881). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 47 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable claims 22 and 28, both now canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that Kokal, Jr. fails to disclose or suggest, among other things, the subject matter recited in claim 47 (as amended). For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 47 (as amended) is patentable over Kokal, Jr.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

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For: SUPPORT MATERIALS AND IMAGING METHOD FOR INTRAORAL DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES**Summary**

It is respectfully submitted that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Transmittal Letter and the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 22nd day of September, 2006, at 12:21 p.m. (Central Time).

By: Name: Rachel Gayle